



## Functional diblock copolymers and ABC stars: synthesis, properties and potential applicability

Chernyy, Sergey; Schulte, Lars; Kirkensgaard, Jacob Judas Kain; Mortensen, Kell; Almdal, Kristoffer

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## EPF-2017 ABSTRACT TEMPLATE

### Functional diblock copolymers and ABC stars: synthesis, properties and potential applicability

Sergey Chernyy<sup>1a</sup>, Lars Schulte<sup>1b,2</sup>, Jacob Judas Kain Kirkensgaard<sup>3c</sup>, Kell Mortensen<sup>3d</sup>, Kristoffer Almdal<sup>1e,2</sup>

1: Technical University of Denmark, DTU Nanotech - Department of Micro- and Nanotechnology, Produktionstorvet, 2800 Kgs. Lyngby, Denmark; 2: Center for Nanostructured Graphene, CNG, DTU Nanotech - Department of Micro- and Nanotechnology, Produktionstorvet, 2800 Kgs. Lyngby, Denmark; 3: Niels Bohr Institute, University of Copenhagen, 2100 Copenhagen, Denmark; a. sech@nanotech.dtu.dk; b. lars.schulte@nanotech.dtu.dk; c. jjkk@nbi.ku.dk; d. kell@nbi.ku.dk; e. kral@nanotech.dtu.dk;

Ferrocene based polymers are attractive due to valuable metallocene-rendered properties as low toxicity, excellent one electron redox reversibility, magnetic susceptibility, photo- and semiconductivity, high plasma etch selectivity, ability to form polymeric charge-transfer complexes, to quench triplet states etc. Narrowly dispersed diblock copolymers containing poly(methyl methacrylate) [PMMA], poly(nonafluorohexyl methacrylate) [PF9MA] or poly(1,4-isoprene) [PI] as the first block and poly(ferrocenylmethyl methacrylate) [PFMMA] as the second block, were prepared by anionic polymerization for the first time<sup>1</sup>. Disordered bulk morphologies in the case of PMMA-b-PFMMA were observed and rationalized in terms of a low Flory-Huggins interaction parameter ( $\chi \leq 0.04$ ) while for the PMMA-b-PI moderate incompatibility ( $\chi = 0.12$ ) accounts for the formation of hexagonally packed cylinder morphology (HEX) in the bulk. The even higher tendency of PF9MA-b-PFMMA to avoid contacts between unlike segments allowed us to achieve the HEX morphology both in the bulk and in thin films on silica substrates.

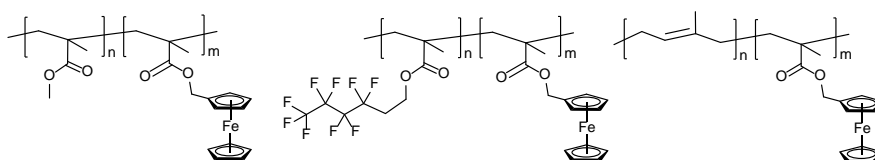


Figure 2: Diblock copolymer structures

While Ferrocene based polymers allow us to introduce  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  nanopatterns (after  $\text{O}_2$  plasma exposure) on a given substrate, ABC miktoarm terpolymers with poly(dimethyl siloxane) [PDMS] arms could be used to decorate a substrate with a variety of periodic patterns made from  $\text{SiO}_2$ . Surface structuring via ABC copolymer lithography give rise to principally new morphologies both in the bulk and on the surface unattainable with simple AB diblock copolymers. In a typical example, core-shell structures were produced from PDMS-PI-PMMA ABC miktoarm stars where oxidized PDMS shell is the only component which remains after  $\text{OR}_2$  plasma removal of PI and PMMA blocks.

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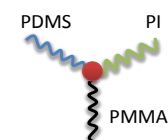


Figure 1  
Functional  
ABC miktoarm  
star block  
terpolymers

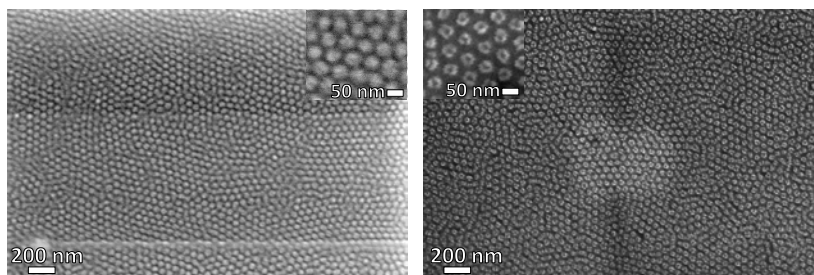


Figure 3 PDMS-PI-PMMA star (relative arm length: 1/1.1/4.9) before (left) and after (right)  $\text{O}_2$  plasma etch.

<sup>1</sup> Sergey Chernyy, Zhongli Wang, Jacob Judas Kain Kirkensgaard, Anders Bakke, Kell Mortensen, Sokol Ndoni, Kristoffer Almdal: *Journal of Polymer Science. Part A. Polymer Chemistry*, **55**, 495-503 (2017)/doi 10.1002/pola.28435